

EXHIBIT A

Certification of Jorge Marchand Sifre

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO
RICO,

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO,
et al.

Debtors.¹

PROMESA
Title III

No. 17 BK 3283-LTS

(Jointly Administered)

**VERIFIED CERTIFICATION OF JORGE MARCHAND SIFRE IN
SUPPORT OF THE FIRST INTERIM APPLICATION OF MARCHAND
ICS GROUP FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES
RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED AS
INFORMATION AGENT TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF
RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO
RICO FROM JULY 21, 2017 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

I, Jorge Marchand Sifre, hereby declare that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief:

1. I am the founder and principal of Marchand ICS Group (“**Marchand**”) which provides communications consulting. Marchand has more than two decades of experience providing strategic communications consulting services for a wide array of clients across dozens

¹ The Debtors in these jointly-administered PROMESA title III cases, along with each Debtor’s respective title III case number listed as a bankruptcy case number due to software limitations and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, as applicable, are: (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); and (v) Puerto Rico Electric and Power Authority (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747).

of industries. I am currently resident in Marchand's San Juan office, located at the Marvel & Marchand Architects Bldg., 161 San Jorge St., Suite 402-E, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00911.

2. I am authorized to submit this certification in support of the *First Application of Marchand ICS Group for Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred Information Agent to the Official Committee of Retired Employees of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico from July 21, 2017 through September 30, 2017* (the "**Application**"). Except as otherwise noted, I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.

3. I have read the Application. The statements contained in the Application are true and correct according to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

4. To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, formed after reasonable inquiry, the fees and disbursements sought in the Application are permissible under the *Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act* ("**PROMESA**"), 48 U.S.C. §§ 2101–2241; the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "**Bankruptcy Rules**"); the Bankruptcy Rules for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico (the "**Local Rules**"); the Court's *Order Establishing Procedures for Retiree Access to Information Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a), 1102(b)(3), and 1103(a), and (II) Employing Marchand ICS Group* ("**Retention Order**") [Dkt. No. 1415]; the Court's *First Amended Order Setting Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Professionals* [Dkt. No. 1715]; and the United States Trustee's *Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Large Chapter 11 Cases Effective as of November 1, 2013*.

5. The fees and disbursements sought in the Application are billed at rates Marchand customarily employs and Marchand clients generally accept in matters of this nature.

6. None of the professionals seeking compensation varied their hourly rate based on their geographic location.

7. Marchand is not seeking compensation for this Interim Period for time spent reviewing or revising time records or preparing, reviewing, or revising invoices.

8. Marchand does not make a profit on costs or expenses for which it seeks reimbursement, whether the service is performed by Marchand in-house or through a third party.

9. In accordance with Rule 2016(a) of the Bankruptcy Rules and 11 U.S.C. § 504, no agreement or understanding exists between Marchand and any other person for the sharing of compensation to be received in connection with the Title III Cases except as authorized by PROMESA, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the Local Rules.

10. All services for which compensation is sought were professional services rendered to the Retiree Committee and not on behalf of any other person.

11. The Retiree Committee was provided with a copy of the Application before it was filed with the Court and does not object to the relief requested therein.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry.

Executed on December 15, 2017

/s/ Jorge Marchand Sifre
Jorge Marchand Sifre